

HOUSE No. 3260

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Peter J. Koutoujian

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to vehicles leading funeral processions.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Peter J. Koutoujian	10th Middlesex
Michael F. Rush	10th Suffolk
Christine E. Canavan	10th Plymouth
Bruce E. Tarr	First Essex and Middlesex
Bruce J. Ayers	1st Norfolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2178 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT RELATIVE TO VEHICLES LEADING FUNERAL PROCESSIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION. 1. Section 7E of chapter 90 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by inserting after the section 7E the following section:-

3
4 Section 7E ½. A vehicle owned or leased by a funeral director, for the purposes of funeral directing, may have
5 mounted thereon flashing, rotating or oscillating lights herein authorized that are not blue or red. Such lights shall
6 only be displayed when an authorized operator of such vehicle is leading a funeral procession and at no other time.

7 Such lights shall not be mounted or displayed on the vehicle until proper application has been made to the
8 registrar of motor vehicles by the funeral director and a written permit has been issued and delivered to the funeral
9 director. In the event that the funeral director is not the registered owner of the vehicle, no permit shall be issued
10 until the owner forwards to the registrar a written statement certifying that he has knowledge that such lights will be
11 mounted and displayed on the vehicle. The application shall include the make, the model, the vehicle identification
12 number, the registration number, and the names and addresses of the funeral director, the owner and any authorized
13 operators of the vehicle for which a permit is to be issued. Any person operating a vehicle upon which such lights
14 are mounted shall have the permit upon his person or in the vehicle in some easily accessible place.

15 Upon termination of the duties which warranted the issuance of the permit or when the vehicle is no longer
16 owned or leased by a funeral director for the purposes of funeral directing, the funeral director shall immediately
17 notify the registrar, return the permit to the registrar and remove such lights from the vehicle. Upon the written
18 request of the chief of police or chief of fire of the city or town in which the permitted vehicle is registered, the
19 registrar may revoke the permit. The registrar shall revoke the permit for the unauthorized use of such lights and the
20 funeral director and the operator shall be subject to a fine as hereinafter provided. Upon revocation, the registrar
21 shall notify forthwith the funeral director and the owner of the vehicle for which the permit was issued and the heads
22 of the police department and fire department of the city or town in which the permit was issued. Upon receipt of a
23 notice of revocation, the funeral director shall immediately return the permit to the registrar and remove such lights

24 from the vehicle; and shall not be eligible for reissuance of the permit without consent of the head of the police
25 department of the city or town in which the original permit was issued.

26 Nothing in this section shall authorize any funeral director or operator of such vehicle to disregard or
27 violate any statute, ordinance, by-law, rule or regulation regarding motor vehicles or their use on ways of the
28 commonwealth. The registrar may make rules and regulations governing or prohibiting the display of such lights as
29 deemed necessary for public safety.

30 Any person who violates this section shall be subject to a fine of 1,000 dollars.